

HOUSE BILL 685

By Fitzhugh

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49,  
Chapter 6, Part 21, relative to requiring seat belts  
in school buses.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 21, is amended by  
adding the following language as a new section:

§ 49-6-21\_\_.

(a) Any bus purchased after July 1, 2007, for the purposes of being owned,  
operated or leased by any public primary or secondary school or school system, and  
which is intended to be used to transport students, shall be equipped with safety belts, or  
with any other restraint system approved by the federal government, for the driver and  
all passengers.

(b) The state board of education, in consultation with the department of safety,  
shall promulgate rules and regulations to effectuate the purposes of this section. All  
such rules and regulations shall be promulgated in accordance with the provisions of title  
4, chapter 5. Such rules and regulations shall include provisions for the posting of  
notices in each bus notifying all passengers of the need to wear their safety belts.

(c) Each passenger on a school bus that is equipped with safety belts shall wear  
a properly adjusted and fastened safety belt at all times while the bus is in operation.  
The state, the county, a school or school system, a school bus operator under contract  
with a school or school system, or an agent or employee of a school or school system or  
operator, including a teacher or volunteer serving as chaperone, is not liable in an action  
for personal injury by a school bus passenger for an injury caused solely by another

passenger's use or nonuse of a safety belt or restraint system in a dangerous or unsafe manner.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2007, the public welfare requiring it.